

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently amended)** A resin composition, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the composition is obtained by copolymerizing only a polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of ~~1300 or less~~ 200 to 900 and at least one or more polymerizable vinyl monomer(s) in a weight ratio of 6:4 to 9:1.

**2. (Cancelled)**

**3. (Original)** The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree of 200 to 600.

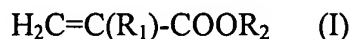
**4. (Previously presented)** The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol.

**5. (Currently amended)** The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymerizable vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated carboxylic acid, an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester, an unsaturated nitrile, an unsaturated amide, an aromatic vinyl, an aliphatic vinyl, and an unsaturated bond-containing heterocycle, or and a salt thereof.

**6. (Previously presented)** The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is obtained by copolymerizing two or more polymerizable vinyl monomers, and at least one of said vinyl monomers is an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof and at least one of said vinyl monomers is an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester.

**7. (Currently amended)** The resin composition according to claim 6, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, and itaconic acid, or ~~and~~ a salt thereof, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, isobutyl acrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl acrylate, an ester of polyethylene glycol and methacrylic acid, an ester of polyethylene glycol and acrylic acid, and an ester of polypropylene glycol and acrylic acid.

**8. (Original)** The resin composition according to claim 7, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid, its salt, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester are those represented by the general formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and  $\text{R}_2$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a salt thereof.

**9. (Original)** The resin composition according to claim 8, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is acrylic acid or a salt thereof, and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester is methyl methacrylate.

**10. (Original)** The resin composition according to claim 9, wherein the weight ratio of acrylic acid or a salt thereof and methyl methacrylate in the copolymerization is 3:7 to 0.5:9.5.

**11. (Currently amended)** The resin composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the composition is obtained by copolymerizing a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 300 to 500 and ~~at~~ the polymerizable vinyl monomer in a weight ratio of 6:4 to 9:1, wherein said polymerizable vinyl monomer is a combination of acrylic acid and methyl methacrylate combined in the weight ratio of 3:7 to 0.5:9.5 in the copolymerization.

**12. (Currently amended)** The resin composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of the partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol having an average polymerization degree of 300 to 500, methyl methacrylate and acrylic acid in the copolymerization is 60 to 90: 7 to 38: 0.5 to 12.

**13. (Previously presented)** A coating agent, comprising the resin composition according to claim 1.

**14. (Previously presented)** A coating agent for medicines, animal drugs, agricultural chemicals, fertilizers or foods, comprising the resin composition according to claim 1.

**15. (Original)** A medicine, an animal drug, an agricultural chemical, a fertilizer or a food, which is coated with the coating agent according to claim 14.

**16. (Currently amended)** A binder for a medicine, an animal drug, an agricultural chemical, a fertilizer or a food, comprising the resin composition according to claim 1.

**17-18. (Cancelled)**

**19. (Currently amended)** A coating agent for tablets or granules, comprising the resin composition according to ~~claim 17~~claim 1.

**20. (Cancelled)**